

To: Werner, Lora[Werner.Lora@epa.gov]
Cc: Markiewicz, Karl[Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov]; Helverson, Robert[Helverson.Robert@epa.gov]; Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)[ibid7@cdc.gov]; Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)[jsh2@cdc.gov]
From: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)
Sent: Sun 10/29/2017 6:03:50 PM
Subject: RE: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

First two sentences of the second paragraph; I tried plain language rather than professional. I guess my date in the first sentence is wrong as well. The fires started on the 21st? I didn't really get into the odors the way you did. The list of symptoms from odors is probably a bit long, but it is comprehensive.

We have a lot more information than what we had on Friday and the air quality has greatly improved since Thursday as firefighting operations have been more successful due to the targeting that the ASPECT thermal imagery allowed.

It would be well to run this through OC, but that may have to wait until tomorrow. If EPA needs something today, then either of our descriptions probably work if EPA is satisfied.

From: Werner, Lora S. (CDC epa.gov)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov>
Cc: Markiewicz, Karl (EPA) (CDC epa.gov) <Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov>; Helverson, Robert (CDC epa.gov) <helverson.robert@epa.gov>; Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ibid7@cdc.gov>; Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <jsh2@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

Wow! This is so terrific. It does not include a discussion of the results against the AQI levels though - did you not think that was appropriate?

Would this need further review in ATL before I could share with EPA and state/local health for discussion?

Lora

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 29, 2017, at 1:40 PM, Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov> wrote:

I think we want to start out talking about the spikes. What about something like this?

Beginning shortly after the fire started on October 20th, EPA and the State have been monitoring environmental conditions around the Ames Warehouse fire at Camden and Broadway in Parkersburg. Additional air monitoring was conducted by the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) working for Wood County authorities beginning the Monday after the fire started. Because information on the contents of the warehouse has not been certain, this air monitoring has focused on particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10) and less than 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5) to track the smoke from the fire. These particulates are small enough to be breathed deep into the lungs and are usually a good indicator of potential health issues. Additional measurements have been made of common breakdown products of plastics and carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a measurement that can be used to evaluate any fire.

The primary concern for health officials has been “spikes” of both PM10 and PM2.5. These spikes have been above 24 hour air quality standards for open air for brief periods of time during the day or night. Many of the spikes have occurred after midnight until just before dawn, usually lasting for periods of less than an hour up to about 4 hours. Then the concentrations dropped below the air standards. Because of wind conditions and the hilly nature of the ground around the warehouse, it is not known how long these higher concentrations have lasted in any given area away from the sampling locations. Local authorities in consultation with state and federal public health and environmental officials made the recommendations to protect public health, including advice on sheltering in their homes and avoiding the smoke. West Virginia officials consulted frequently with their counterparts in Ohio to make sure everyone in the area possibly affected by the smoke from the fire were made aware of the recommendations to protect themselves.

Smoke from any fire irritates the lungs, nose, and throat. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory and cardiac conditions are more sensitive to the effects of the smoke from this fire. From what we have seen in the environmental data so far, once exposure to the smoke from this fire has stopped, any symptoms should subside fairly quickly. If any individual has symptoms that persist, they should consult first with their personal doctors because your doctor knows your personal health better than anyone else. Other professionals through the local hospitals, regional poison control centers, and public health agencies are available to your doctor to help them understand the effects of the smoke in order to help you.

West Virginia Health and Ohio Health initiated a process called syndromic surveillance through the local hospitals. Syndromic surveillance is a means of tracking signs and symptoms of exposure to smoke. From what we have learned so far, people in the areas potentially affected by the smoke have done well protecting themselves following the advice from local officials. The need for additional studies is being considered. If it is determined that there is a need or benefit for additional studies, state and federal health agencies will work through local authorities to conduct those studies. When additional information on the contents of the warehouse and the air and water quality becomes available, a better appreciation of the potential health effects of this fire can be made. This additional information should help with the decision for any additional studies.

The health and environmental professionals working on this fire will continue to work together until we are confident that the community concerns are addressed.

This is too long for a “blurb”, but I’m not sure there is a short way to discuss this situation.

From: Werner, Lora S. (CDC epa.gov) lasting
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Markiewicz, Karl (EPA) (CDC epa.gov) <Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov>; Helverson, Robert (CDC epa.gov) <helverson.robert@epa.gov>; Edge, Charles (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ibd7@cdc.gov>; Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) <ran2@cdc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

See attached. Can you look at spreadsheet and my blurb EC Rory from Friday ERS email and let me know if you have any thoughts?

This is complete EPA DATARAMS info as of 10/26.
EPA needs to post a blurb on data on their website about it. This was their first cut below. I suggested:

Assuming EPA’s PM2.5 average results are essentially 24 hour averages, the latest results ranged from the good through the hazardous AQI categories. (**Need to edit ad needed**) Aggravation of heart and lung disease are possible under these conditions. People with heart

or lung disease should pay attention to symptoms and contact their health care provider if they experience symptoms and reduce their exposure to the impacted air per the incident command's shelter in place recommendations. Sensitive groups should limit prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors, and people with asthma should follow their asthma management plan.

Spikes above these average levels continue to occur.

This could be due to a changing wind conditions such as temperature inversions and other changing wind patterns. EPA's monitors would not always be expected to be in the location of every peak. With the absence of meteorological data and changing wind directions, it is difficult to predict these spikes. Terrain steering may also play a role in impacting the direction of the plume. Sensitive individuals should continue to keep this in mind.

We do not have comprehensive information about chemicals at this warehouse. Therefore, there is uncertainty about the overall mixture that was potentially (or might still be) in the air. There have been strong plastics odors as well as typical combustion odors in residential areas and ATSDR does not have information on what would be causing these odors or the public health implications. Strong odors in air can cause symptoms in people. Some people are more sensitive to environmental odors than others. In general, as concentration levels increase, more people will have symptoms. Symptoms vary based on your

sensitivity to the odor. Young children, the elderly, and pregnant women may be more sensitive to odors. In general, the most common symptoms from odors are headaches, nasal congestion, eye, nose, and throat irritation, hoarseness, sore throat, cough, chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing, heart palpitations, nausea, drowsiness, and mental depression. These symptoms generally occur at the time of exposure. Their intensity will depend on the concentration of the odor in air, how often you smell it, and how long exposure lasts.

I hope to get to pc soon to look at spreadsheet too. L

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Duffy, Jessica" <Duffy.Jessica@epa.gov>
To: "Lindsey, Deborah" <Lindsey.Deborah@epa.gov>, "Burns, Francis" <Burns.Fran@epa.gov>, "Werner, Lora" <Werner.Lora@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

Lora,

This is what we pulled from your blurb you sent earlier this week. We changed to update to make more relevant for now....

Since Friday October 27, 2017, the combustion has become less efficient and less energetic. The smoke has been hugging the ground and there has been more particulate matter in the air around the fire site. Additional environmental data are needed to evaluate areas closer to the fire until it is extinguished. EPA and WVDEP are continuously coordinating with personnel from the Agency of Toxic Substances and

Disease Registry (ATSDR), West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, and Wood County Health Department officials for assistance assessing a variety of monitoring and sampling results from state, local, and federal sources to determine the implications on public health.

ATSDR has yet to receive safety data sheets (SDSs) or comprehensive information about chemicals at this warehouse, beyond a handwritten list shared by US EPA on 10/21/17 and a concern that significant amounts of DuPont's Rynite thermoplastic polyester resin product may have been present. According to the SDS for Rynite, hazardous gases/vapors produced in fire are carbon monoxide and hydrogen bromide. No chemical laboratory analytical data from the response has been available to ATSDR as of 10/29/17; therefore, there is uncertainty about the overall mixture that was potentially (or might still be) in the air. There have been strong plastics odors as well as typical combustion odors in residential areas and ATSDR does not have information on what would be causing these odors or the public health implications. Strong odors in air can cause symptoms in people. Some people are more sensitive to environmental odors than others. In general, as concentration levels increase, more people will have symptoms. Symptoms vary based on your sensitivity to the odor. Young children, the elderly, and pregnant women may be more sensitive to odors. In general, the most common symptoms from odors are headaches, nasal congestion, eye, nose, and throat irritation, hoarseness, sore throat, cough, chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing, heart palpitations, nausea, drowsiness, and mental depression. These symptoms generally occur at the time of exposure. Their intensity will depend on the concentration of the odor in air, how often you smell it, and how long exposure lasts.

Jessica Duffy

Emergency Planner

USEPA Region 3

HSCD - Office of Preparedness and Response

1650 Arch Street (3HS33)

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Office: 215-814-3212

Cell: 267-666-9251

duffy.jessica@epa.gov

From: Lindsey, Deborah
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 11:03 AM
To: Burns, Francis <Burns.Fran@epa.gov>; Duffy, Jessica <Duffy.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: Linden, Melissa <linden.melissa@epa.gov>; Wenning, Stephanie <Wenning.Stephanie@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

Fran and Jessica

Attached is the email that Lora Werner mentioned in the call. This is the same information that Stephanie and Melissa mentioned in this morning call.

As I read the message just now – I believe that ATSDR's evaluation of EPA data is from a spreadsheet that I sent out on Monday or Tuesday which only summarized START's logbook data that they collected from checking on the datarams throughout the monitoring period from when they arrived thru Monday morning –

This included the instantaneous reading at the time of the check and what the TWA said at the time of the check.

ATSDR did not receive any real PM data until Thursday when we received the data chars from START.

Debbie Lindsey

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USEPA Region 3

Wheeling Field Office

1060 Chapline Street

Wheeling, WV 26003

(304) 234-0249

(304) 281-2569 (cell)

From: Linden, Melissa

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:30 AM

To: Lindsey, Deborah <Lindsey.Deborah@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wenning, Stephanie" <Wenning.Stephanie@epa.gov>

Date: October 29, 2017 at 8:43:41 AM EDT

To: "Linden, Melissa" <linden.melissa@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

Stephanie Wenning

Hazardous Site Cleanup Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

215.814.3186 office / 215.687.2958 cell

From: Werner, Lora

Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 11:04 AM

To: Lindsey, Deborah <Lindsey.Deborah@epa.gov>; Helverson, Robert <Helverson.Robert@epa.gov>; Markiewicz, Karl <Markiewicz.Karl@epa.gov>; ibd7@cdc.gov; jim.a.rose@wv.gov; Colledge, Michelle <Colledge.Michelle@epa.gov>; Wenning, Stephanie <Wenning.Stephanie@epa.gov>; Wagner, Christine <Wagner.Christine@epa.gov>
Cc: Rebecca Fugitt <Rebecca.Fugitt@odh.ohio.gov>; Gene.Phillips@odh.ohio.gov; ran2@cdc.gov
Subject: Ames Warehouse Fire - background technical info on initial realtime air data from ATSDR emergency response if helpful

Following up on our discussions, below is some preliminary background info on the initial realtime air data from ATSDR. I hope you find it helpful. Lora

On 10/21/17 Saturday morning at 1230 AM, Parkersburg fire crews responded to a fire at the Intercontinental Export and Import Company - Plant #1 on Camden Avenue in Parkersburg WV. The facility is a warehouse housing many plastics-related and other unknown materials. The fire is still ongoing. The county has the lead in the incident command, and hired an environmental contractor (CTEH) to conduct air monitoring and sampling. CTEH is conducting roving realtime air monitoring for particulate matter, and is also collecting field air monitoring data for other constituents including carbon monoxide, chlorine, and sulfur dioxide. At the request of WV DEP, in addition EPA deployed four particulate air monitors around the perimeter of the fire, and began collecting data on 10/22/17 (Sunday) ATSDR R3, ATSDR R5, and DTHHS ERS are coordinating with EPA, WV state and local health, and OH state and local health. Air quality continues to be impacted in both WV and across the river in OH.

Based on the CTEH collected air monitoring data, overall, levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and course dust particles (PM10) are decreasing since the first recorded readings (10/23/17) to date. No air sampling analytical data have been made available as of 10/26/17. However, volatile organic and targeted analyte air sampling is planned. Below are the trends in the realtime air monitoring collected by various mobile monitoring devices. EPA has also collected additional air monitoring data and will share it after completing QA/QC procedures.

10/22-23/17 (EPA PM10 time weighted average monitoring)

Levels of PM10 ranged from 7.6-77.6 ug/m³ and 30.7-764.3 ug/m³.

10/23/17 (CTEH instantaneous PM monitoring)

Levels of PM2.5 were highest 0.32 miles from the site at 2,810 ug/m³. Levels of PM10 were highest 1.15 miles from the site at 384 ug/m³. The average of the PM2.5 and PM10 readings for all the locations monitored were 241 ug/m³ and 110 ug/m³, respectively. The highest concentration of SO₂ was recorded at 0.5ppm.

10/24/17 (CTEH instantaneous PM monitoring)

Levels of PM2.5 were highest 0.4 miles from the site at 2,210 ug/m³. Levels of PM10 were highest 0.21 miles from the site at 858 ug/m³. The average of the PM2.5 and PM10 readings for all the locations monitored were 77 ug/m³ and 96 ug/m³, respectively. The highest concentration of SO₂ was recorded at 0.1ppm.

10/25/17 (CTEH instantaneous PM monitoring)

Levels of PM2.5 were highest 0.25 miles from the site at 531 ug/m³. Levels of PM10 were highest 0.25 miles from the site at 425 ug/m³. The average of the PM2.5 and PM10 readings for all the locations monitored were 49 ug/m³ and 41 ug/m³, respectively. No SO₂ readings were recorded.

10/26/17 (CTEH instantaneous PM monitoring)

Levels of PM2.5 were highest 3.21 miles from the site at 442 ug/m³. Levels of PM10 were highest 1.47 miles from the site at 24 ug/m³. The average of the PM2.5 and PM10 readings for all the locations monitored were 85 ug/m³ and 24 ug/m³, respectively. No SO₂ readings were recorded. The exceedance that was recorded 3.21 miles away was from a residential area. More investigation should be done in these areas. The maximum value could be attributed to the temperature inversion or to the presence of other local sources of PM2.5 (e.g., wood-burning fireplaces).

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According to the Air Quality Index (AQI) for Particulate Matter, 250.5 to 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM_{2.5} on a 24-hour average is considered hazardous. Based on the maximum concentrations only, these areas would be considered hazardous to health. 24-hour averages were not available for the CTEH readings. These are realtime instantaneous readings. The average concentrations above for the CTEH readings are the averages of the total detected instantaneous readings for the day in all monitoring locations. Time weighted averages were not available for the CTEH monitoring locations. Assuming EPA's PM₁₀ 24-hour average results were principally fine particulate matter, these results ranged from the good through the hazardous AQI categories. Aggravation of heart and lung disease are possible under these conditions. People with heart or lung disease should pay attention to symptoms and contact their health care provider if they experience symptoms and reduce their exposure to the impacted air per the incident command's shelter in place recommendations. Sensitive groups should limit prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors, and people with asthma should follow their asthma management plan.

The maximum concentrations that have been seen to date in the CTEH monitoring generally last from 20-30 minutes and then drop below the EPA 24 hour average National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM_{2.5} of 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and PM₁₀ of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Spikes above these levels have occurred on each of the monitoring days. On 10/23/17, there were 3 spikes above 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. On 10/26/17, there were 7 spikes that occurred over a few hours. This could have been due to a temperature inversion that may have occurred over night. With the absence of meteorological data and changing wind directions, it is difficult to predict these spikes. Terrain steering may also play a role in impacting the direction of the plume. Attached is PowerPoint presentation that denotes these spikes for PM_{2.5}.

Over the past couple of days, the combustion is becoming less efficient and less energetic. The smoke is hugging the ground and there may be more particulate matter in the air around the fire site. Spikes of higher levels of particulate matter last longer and are more frequent. The air quality hazard going forward may be greater until the fire is extinguished. Additional environmental data are needed to evaluate areas closer to the fire until it is extinguished, including data collection at the closest school(s).

ATSDR has yet to receive safety data sheets (SDSs) or comprehensive information about chemicals at this warehouse, beyond a handwritten list shared by US EPA on 10/21/17 and a concern that significant amounts of DuPont's Rynite thermoplastic polyester resin product may have been present. According to the SDS for Rynite, hazardous gases/vapors produced in fire are carbon monoxide and hydrogen bromide. No chemical laboratory analytical data from the response has been available to ATSDR as of 10/26/17; therefore, there is uncertainty about the overall mixture that was potentially (or might still be) in the air. There have been strong plastics odors as well as typical combustion odors in residential areas and ATSDR does not have information on what would be causing these odors or the public health implications. Strong odors in air can cause symptoms in people. Some people are more sensitive to environmental odors than others. In general, as concentration levels increase, more people will have symptoms. Symptoms vary based on your sensitivity to the odor. Young children, the elderly, and pregnant women may be more sensitive to odors. In general, the most common symptoms from odors are headaches, nasal congestion, eye, nose, and throat irritation, hoarseness, sore throat, cough, chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing, heart palpitations, nausea, drowsiness, and mental depression. These symptoms generally occur at the time of exposure. Their intensity will depend on the concentration of the odor in air, how often you smell it, and how long exposure lasts.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2017, at 1:31 PM, Werner, Lora <Werner.Lora@epa.gov> wrote:

As we are discussing!

Excerpt we were discussing on health effects and cautionary statements (average levels for PM2.5 most recently seen are in unhealthy range, max values exceeded hazardous range):

Full link and pdf:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/wildfiresmoke2016.pdf>

Lora

Lora Siegmann Werner, MPH

Regional Director, Region 3

Division of Community Health Investigations

Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR)/Centers for
Disease Control & Prevention

c/o EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street

Mailstop 3HS00

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Desk phone: 215-814-3141

Cell phone: 215-588-9778

Fax: 215-814-3003

Emails (only need to use one): lkw9@cdc.gov and werner.lora@epa.gov

****Please note: emails may appear as @epa.gov because we share IT
services in our regional office****

<Wildfire Smoke PH Guide excerpt.pdf>

<wildfiresmoke2016.pdf>